

2013
ANNUAL REPORT



HONORABLE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

It is with great pleasure to have our Administrative Team present this Annual Report for the 2013 calendar year. Please remember that this report is intended only to summarize the major achievements and accomplishments of each department and division of the City during the year. It is not intended to provide a comprehensive listing of all that the City of Blue Ash has to offer to those who live, work, and play in our community.

It is truly a privilege to work for the City of Blue Ash and its City Council. We look forward to continuing our efforts associated with the many exciting opportunities that face our community and its residential and corporate citizens. Thank you for your continued support and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

BLUE ASH CITY ADMINISTRATION



DAVID WALTZ

City Manager



KELLY HARRINGTON

Assistant City Manager



SHERRY POPPE

Treasurer/Administrative
Services Director



PAUL HARTINGER

Police Chief



CHUCK FUNK

Parks & Recreation Director



RICK BROWN

Fire Chief



GORDON PERRY

Public Works Director

REPORT CONTENT

Administration **6**

Finance & Tax **10**

Human Resources **11**

Economic Development **12**

Community Development **13**

Police **14**

Fire **16**

Public Works **18**

Parks & Recreation **21**

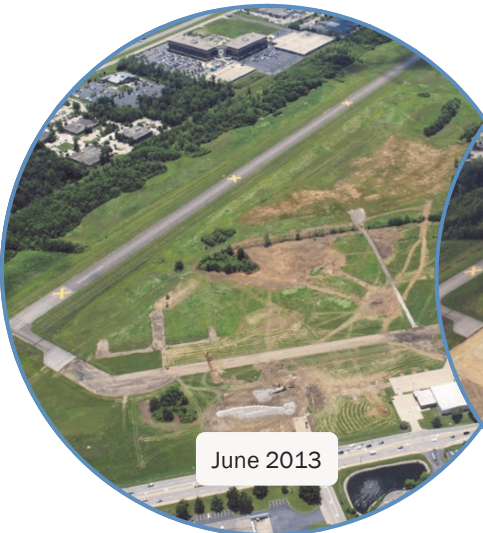
ADMINISTRATION

SUMMIT PARK

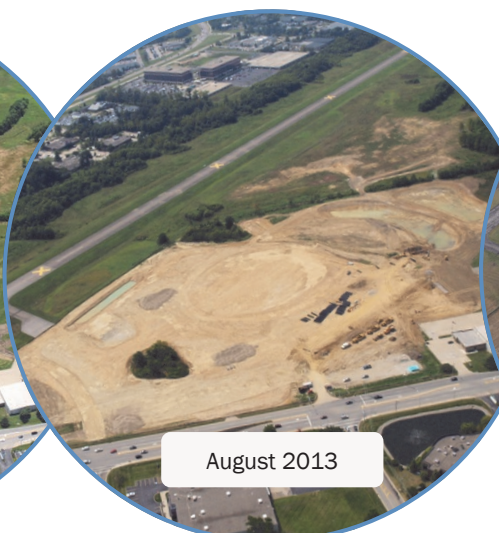


City officials attended the official groundbreaking ceremony for the park on June 13, 2013.

Phase 1 construction of Summit Park began in June with the start of site demolition and clearing, earthwork and utilities, electrical, purchase of great lawn sod and trees, asphalt paving, concrete work, and irrigation. The City has continued designing the future playground, community building, glass canopy, restaurant, stage, and signage. Although great progress has been made since the start of 2013, inclement weather impacted the schedule later in the year.



June 2013



August 2013



December 2013

ADMINISTRATION

COMMUNICATION OFFICE

The annual calendar, electronic (12) and print (3) newsletters, press releases (77), and other traditional publications were produced by the City throughout the year. The second annual Calendar Contest was held for the 2014 calendar, with more than 100 photo submissions from dozens of photographers.



Emily Schaffer was hired as the full-time Community and Public Relations Coordinator in early 2013.

The City received its first 3CMA Savvy Award in September for its 2013 Calendar.



An audit was conducted in the spring by Vehr Communications to condense social media platforms. By eliminating various social media sites and focusing on seven core accounts, community engagement increased and public information was disseminated in a more consistent manner.



myCommuniTree
Blue Ash • Montgomery • Sycamore Community Schools

activities, services, opportunities and projects in the cities or school district, and links back to each entity's website and social media platforms.

Together with the City of Montgomery and Sycamore Community Schools, MyCommuniTree.com was launched in October. The site, developed and designed collaboratively by all three entities, is a one-stop shop for area information; visitors are not required to use any social media service. The site provides information on

The City continues to utilize Tax Increment Financing (TIFs) as an economic development tool. In 2013, the State approved the property tax exemption for the Forest Pharmaceuticals properties and the GoCo Shell redevelopment. The City also established a TIF related to the development of a 20,000 sq. ft. research and development center on Michelman's campus. The revenues from this TIF will be combined with those from the Target and GoCo Shell TIFs for infrastructure improvements in the Plainfield/Hunt vicinity. Lastly, City Council established a TIF regarding the development of the \$20 million, 218-unit Hills apartment complex in the City's downtown. Hills TIF revenues will be used for downtown sidewalk, streetlight, and streetscaping improvements.

In anticipation of the expiration of the City's utility contract, the Assistant City Manager, Kelly Harrington, began exploring utility options in the summer of 2013 when rates were low.

The most favorable offer came from Duke Energy Retail Sales. The City was able to secure 3.99 cents per kWh for traffic and streetlights and 5.15 cents per kWh for all other accounts (City facilities) for 2014-2016.

Based on previous usage, these two rates equate to an effective rate of 4.9 cents per kWh.

ADMINISTRATION

BLUE ASH ACADEMY

The City launched Blue Ash Academy in 2013. Blue Ash Academy is a 9-month employee development program aimed at broadening the awareness and understanding of the various City functions and community involvement in those functions. Involving staff from all departments, an additional benefit of the program is the relationship building that occurs during the sessions.



BLUE ASH VISITS ILMENAU

The City of Blue Ash paid a visit to its Sister City of Ilmenau, Germany, in 2013. Led by Mayor Mark Weber, the delegation included representatives from City Administration, City Council, Sycamore Community Schools, and local planning and architecture firms involved in City Boards and Summit Park.

The delegates toured various Ilmenau neighborhoods, sports facilities, the Thuringian state parliament, the vocational school and Technical University, and various other areas. Recreational activities included a historical train ride, glassblowing, a visit to Point Alpha, an East-West border observation post, and cultural dinner gatherings.



ADMINISTRATION

ILMENAU VISITS BLUE ASH



In the fall, 14 Ilmenau High School students participated in an exchange with Sycamore High School. The students met with City officials and toured City facilities. The City also sponsored a Cincinnati history tour highlighting the region's German heritage and a visit to Amish country.



TREASURER'S OFFICE

Efforts in 2013 remained focused on short-term and long-term financial monitoring and planning. Analysis of the City's operational revenue vs. operational costs was completed on a quarterly basis. Recurring revenues must exceed normal operating costs so that a surplus remains to pay for capital project-related debt (bonds), replacement capital and infrastructure, and enhanced reserves for future major projects. The City maintains a close eye on its finances and continues to monitor the effects of the State's Municipal Income Tax Uniformity initiative and the federally mandated Affordable Care Act.

GENERAL FUNDS BALANCE

	2011	2012	2013
Beginning General Fund Cash Balance	\$18,237,667	\$23,640,053	\$29,647,714
Revenues	\$36,721,755	\$39,356,698	\$41,919,167
Expenditures	\$(31,319,369)	\$(33,349,037)	\$(35,895,392)
Ending Cash Balance	\$23,640,053	\$29,647,714	\$35,671,489
Encumbrances	\$(947,042)	\$(820,924)	\$(881,175)
Ending General Fund Balance	\$22,693,011	\$28,826,790	\$34,790,314
Of that balance:			
Available for General Operations	\$12,562,535	\$16,081,570	\$21,433,194
Available for Issue 15 Projects	\$10,130,476	\$12,745,220	\$13,357,120

In December 2013, the City issued \$9.9 million in short-term debt to finance Phase I of the new Summit Park construction. Ongoing planning, regarding amenities and financing needs, continues related to this multi-year project.



FINANCE & TAX

The Finance Office is responsible for overseeing all areas of financial administration, including revenue recording, investments, expenditure tracking, financial records administration, budgeting, debt financing, auditing, payroll administration, and financial reporting. The Tax Office is responsible for earnings tax collection, reporting and enforcement of the City's Earnings Tax Code.

FINANCE OFFICE

The 2013 Final Budget was monitored throughout the year. The 2014 Tax Budget was prepared and filed with Hamilton County in July, while the 2014 Proposed Budget was presented to and approved by City Council in December. The City maintained budgetary compliance throughout the entire year. Finance is also continuously working with Human Resources and City Administration to ensure a smooth transition and compliance with the Affordable Care Act. The responsibility for tracking and reporting Capital Assets is also being transitioned to Finance. Software has been upgraded with additional plans to further improve the efficiency of the process.

Jeannette Boraten, the Payroll Clerk of 30 years, retired from the Finance team in 2013. A new accounts receivable clerk, Debbie Hicks, was welcomed to the team while the previous accounts receivable clerk, Julie Thompson, trained to take over the payroll position.

The 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) was prepared and audited during 2013. The audit received the highest opinion possible. The 2012 CAFR marked the 26th year the City has received the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award. This award is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association and represents the highest award available in governmental reporting.



TAX OFFICE

	2012	2013	% Change
Withholdings	\$26,054,663	\$26,886,756	3.19%
Net Profit	6,624,974	7,060,446	6.57%
Gross Income Tax	\$32,679,637	\$33,947,202	3.88%

Tax receipts increased in all categories for 2013 over the previous year. Withholdings represent approximately 79.2% of total collections. Staff processed the withholding payments and annual reconciliations for more than 2,400 accounts. Furthermore, the office audited more than 5,000 annual individual and business tax returns.

The Tax Office was back at full staffing levels (two full-time and two part-time staff members). Training was a priority with the two part-timers, who both started in late 2012. The team collaborated with other municipal Tax Offices in implementing and planning for additional efficiency and process updates.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources (HR) Department has one part-time and two full-time (including the HR Officer) staff members. In addition to the daily routine internal support functions the HR Department performed for all City departments and divisions, the following offers a summary of 2013 achievements.

HIRES AND PROMOTIONS

2013 was a busy year for new hires and promotions, including several changes within the Police Department. Overall, there were 11 full-time processes, which resulted in 24 new or promoted full-time employees. All vacancies were created as a result of retirements and resignations and were not new positions. In addition, several part-time employees were hired in 2013 to help maintain the quality of services throughout various City Departments. Margaret Bowling, the Human Resources Officer, also left the City in September to become a full-time mother.

LABOR RELATIONS

The City received notification in January that the AFSCME (Public Works) bargaining unit had voted to decertify.

Negotiations between the City and the Police Patrol Officers (BAPOBA) and the Police Sergeants (FOP) were completed during the year.

INSURANCE

The Employee Health Insurance Committee reviewed medical insurance cost-savings options for the insurance renewal again in 2013.

For the third year in a row, the City received a 0% increase for the same benefit levels that employees received in previous years.

EVENTS



The Health Fair was held at the Cooper Creek Event Center in January. It was well attended by vendors and employees. The event is beneficial to employees because it introduces them to ideas and practices that can lead to a healthier lifestyle, including mental, financial, and physical health.



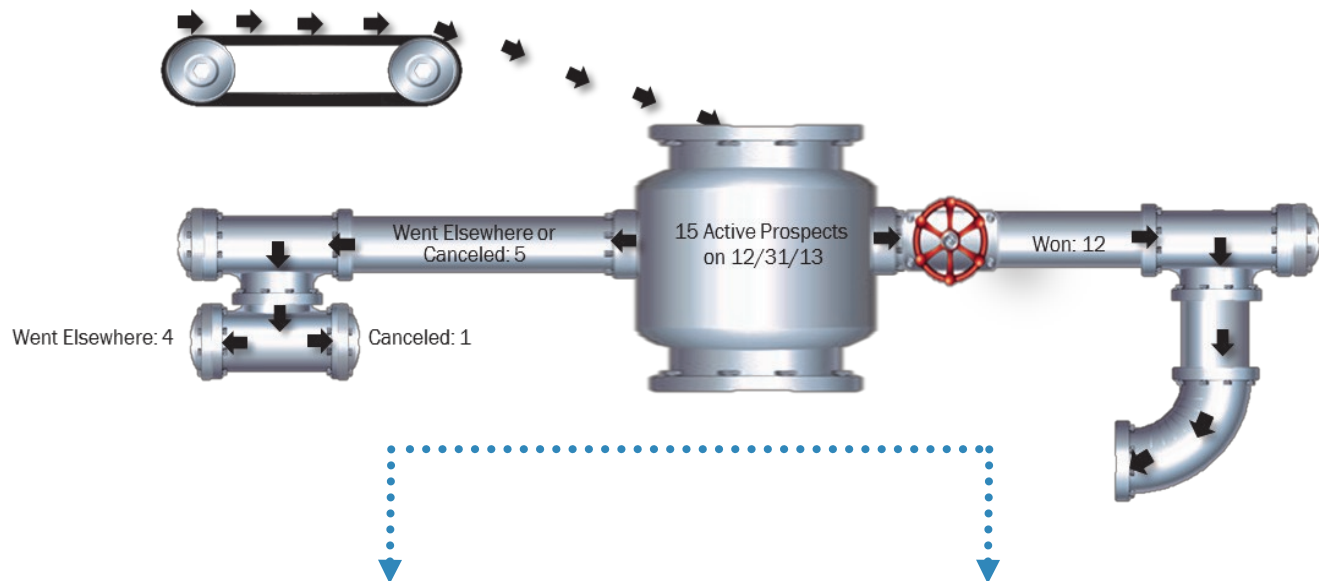
The HR Department coordinated the annual Holiday Luncheon in December at Cooper Creek. Generous Blue Ash employees raised over \$900 for Matthew 25: Ministries and helped dozens of families in the area through the donation of gifts.



The annual summer luncheon and golf outing was held again in July and was very successful. The event was coordinated by the Golf Pro and Golf Maintenance Department.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXPANSIONS/ATTRACTIONS



Expanded in Blue Ash



New to Blue Ash



sedgwick

SAATCHI
&
SAATCHI



2013 was a great year for business expansion and attractions in the City of Blue Ash. Seven companies expanded their existing operations in the City, while five companies chose to establish a new facility in Blue Ash. These additions and expansions created nearly 500 new jobs and led to the absorption of more than 125,000 sq. ft. of additional office and production space.

On December 31, 2013, 15 active prospects were still considering expanding in or moving to Blue Ash. The City hopes that many of those companies will turn into 2014 success stories.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

In 2013, Hills Land & Development Company was authorized to proceed with redevelopment of the former Thriftway store site at 4900 Hunt Road in Downtown Blue Ash. The four-story, multi-family development is certain to add year-round consumers who should help support a vibrant downtown environment.

BUSINESS RENOVATIONS

Cincinnati Thermal Spray (CTS) completed renovation of its new facility at 10904 Deerfield Road and immediately began productive operations. The appearance of the property is much improved from its condition in recent years. CTS develops and applies advanced coatings and surface modifications for industrial uses.

ResourceOne completed a large addition at its 6043 Interstate Circle facility. ResourceOne recycles materials used in production that might otherwise be treated as environmental waste and finds opportunities for reuse of those materials.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

City Council approved a five-lot subdivision in Hazelwood on Margaretta Avenue in 2013 that, when completed, will result in eight new homes on that street since 2010. Throughout 2013, the number and types of inquiries from developers and realtors indicate that the City can expect to see continued activity in new infill residential construction.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

222

courtesy letters
sent to residents
& businesses

55

violation notices
throughout the
year

Throughout the year, the City addressed many code violations at residences and businesses.

The majority of the violations fell in the category of cosmetic and minor structural issues.



BUILDING PERMITS



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Residential	182	232	163	222	281
Commercial	302	411	438	489	428
Est. Value of Construction	\$14 M	\$66 M	\$36 M	\$30 M	\$61 M

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Blue Ash Police Department (BAPD) consists of 32 full-time police officers (PO), 2 part-time auxiliary officers, 4 full-time and 1 part-time dispatchers, 1 full-time and 1 part-time mayors court staff, 1 part-time records clerk, 2 part-time police technicians and 1 part-time scheduling officer.

TRANSITIONS

At the beginning of 2013, Chief Chris Wallace, Captain Robert Lilley and Captain Jim Schaffer retired, along with Detective Joe Schlie and Patrol Officer Erskine Page. These officers had over 150 years of combined law enforcement experience.



Hartinger



Riley



Boyatt

Lt. Paul Hartinger was promoted to Police Chief, Lt. Rich Riley was promoted to Captain, Sgt. Joe Boyatt was promoted to Lieutenant, and POs Allison Schlie and Rob Gerhardt were both promoted to Sergeant.

Sgt. Ed Charron was reassigned from the patrol section to supervise the Criminal Investigations Section (CIS), while Bob Rockel and Jeff Lewis were reassigned as Detectives in CIS.

In late 2013, Detective Jim Kelley was assigned to the FBI's Economic Crimes Task Force to investigate local economic crimes that may have national or international implications.



After being sworn in, Chief Hartinger updated the Police Department Mission Statement. After several months and much input from personnel at all levels, BAPD's new statement simply states:

With courage, integrity and compassion we serve, safeguard and educate our community by providing superior services that sustain a safe environment and high quality of life.

Chief Hartinger presented the new mission statement to all members of the police department at a meeting in December. Each employee was presented with a challenge coin as a reminder of the *courage, integrity and compassion* that is displayed in every aspect of their jobs.

Three new officers were hired to help fill the vacancies that were created due to retirements and promotions: POs Brendan McKinney, Dustin Moore, and Jason Swartwout. In preparation for hiring new officers, the 14-week police officer training program was updated. Each new officer is assigned to a Field Training Officer (FTO) each day throughout the process and is evaluated in 31 categories, including knowledge of criminal law, officer safety, and relationships with citizens.

BAPD added four new FTO's including Sgt. Roger Pohlman, PO Todd Stewart, PO Brandon Taylor, and PO Dane Baumgartner to assist in training the new officers.



Four (4) new Ford Interceptor SUVs were purchased in 2013. The SUVs provide more room for personnel and equipment than the Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors. The SUVs also have the added benefit of All-Wheel Drive.

20,654

CALLS FOR SERVICE

1,969

TRAFFIC CITATIONS
ISSUED

1,215

CRIMINAL & NON-
CRIMINAL REPORTS
COMPLETED

1,019

ARRESTS

766

AUTO ACCIDENTS

659

WRITTEN WARNINGS
ISSUED

56

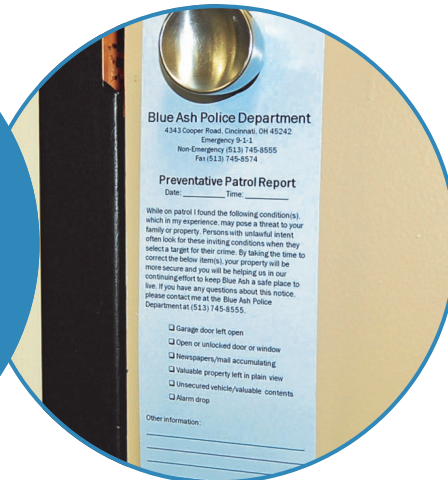
OVI ARRESTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the year, BAPD presented ALiCE (Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counterattack-Evacuate) training to schools and businesses throughout the community on 17 separate occasions. ALiCE is a program that is designed to provide ordinary citizens with a variety of options on how to survive an “active shooter” situation regardless of where the incident takes place.

In 2013, BAPD began several new methods of communicating information to citizens. Preventative Patrol Report door hangers are now left at residences to notify citizens of situations criminals can capitalize on (garage doors open, unlocked vehicles, etc.).



BAPD also began producing Safety Minute Videos featuring various topics that are accessible via YouTube and Facebook, www.facebook.com/blueashpolice.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Lt. Steve Schueler (pictured, center) graduated as a Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE). CLEE is a 14-month executive leadership training program.

Sgt. Scott Noel and Sgt. Rob Gerhardt graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC). PELC is a three month training program designed for new first line supervisors.

BAPD now has 10 officers and two dispatchers trained as Crisis Intervention Training/Mental Health Response Team (CIT/MHRT) responders to help people with mental illness that they may encounter during their daily duties.

PO Steve Keller was given an award by the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) for his work in Blue Ash to assist individuals who suffer from mental illness.



In December, the City of Blue Ash received its 4th Platinum Award from the AAA Community Traffic Safety Awards Program. The application was submitted by Traffic Safety Officer Dane Baumgartner in consideration for traffic safety programs, presentations, roadway improvements, and trends that show improvements in meeting the City's traffic safety goals.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Blue Ash Fire Department (BAFD) consists of 27 full-time Firefighter/Paramedics, 16 part-time Firefighter/Paramedics, and one full-time secretary. BAFD operates out of two stations—the North Station (fire headquarters) at 10647 Kenwood Road and the South Station at 4343 Cooper Road. The department has four operational divisions: Administrative, Fire Prevention & Life Safety, Training, and Fire & EMS Operations.

TRANSITIONS

Many personnel changes occurred in 2013. Lieutenant Edward Jansing retired after 29 years of service, Lt. John Hale retired after 20 years of service, and Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Winkelman retired after 30 years of service. Firefighter/Paramedic Karen Packwood resigned from her position to become a registered nurse with Tri-Health. The department also said farewell to part-timers Kyle Riley, Joe Placke, Dan Runyan, Travis Burnett, and Chris Ellis.

Firefighter/Paramedics Eric Simon and Brian Mayer were both promoted to Fire Lieutenants. BAFD welcomed 4 full-time Firefighter/Paramedics: Scott Goldschmidt, Matt Poppe, Jake Bresnen, and Kyle Nelson, along with 6 part-time Firefighter/Paramedics: Jordan Rothwell, Patrick Jennings, Steve Hamm, Jason Brice, Christopher Mason, and Michael Helms.



At the beginning of March, BAFD was assigned a new University of Cincinnati Medical Director, Dr. Jason McMullan. Dr. Sean Foster remained the Assistant Medical Director, while Dr. David Strong and Dr. Liz Powell were assigned as the department's new interns. Dr. McMullan and his team conducted monthly trainings for BAFD, as well as assisted in medical guidance and support for paramedics throughout the year.

LIFE SAFETY HIGHLIGHTS

The Life Safety Division performed plan reviews and/or conducted site inspections on several large projects within the City this year, including the new Sycamore Board of Education building, the new Maple Dale Elementary School, continued construction on Forest Pharmaceuticals, initial infrastructure projects within Summit Park, the Matthew 25: Ministries expansion construction on Kenwood Road, and the Michelman Corporation expansion on Shell Road.

All preplans were entered into the new reporting program, which also has a mobile application for preplans accessible on iPads. This makes accessing occupancy information easier and more efficient, as it can be updated anytime in the field.

NEW CAPITAL EQUIPMENT



Powerflexx Cots have the capability of lifting up to 700 pounds, thus reducing the risk of back injuries to paramedics.

Powerflexx Stairchairs powers patient loads up to 500 pounds. The motor and track system supports the weight up and down stairs without carrying or lifting.



Roll N Rack Roller Systems automatically rolls fire hoses, thus reducing the threat for back and other related injuries.

LUCAS 2 Chest Compression System performs CPR automatically on patients while in route to hospitals, reducing the fatigue on medics.



BAFD received \$38,877.08 in grant money from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the State of Ohio for 2013 capital equipment purchases. With this, BAFD purchased new power equipment in hopes of reducing the risk of injuries to paramedics while on the job.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

2013 BY THE NUMBERS

6

COMPLIANCE ORDERS
ISSUED

27

PERMIT APPLICATIONS
PROCESSED

180

SYSTEM TESTS
CONDUCTED

263

SETS OF PLANS,
INCLUDING FIRE ALARM
AND SPRINKLER
SYSTEMS REVIEWED

606

RE-INSPECTIONS TO
VERIFY COMPLIANCE

715

PREPLANS COMPLETED
REPRESENTING 100%
COMPLIANCE WITH ISO
REQUIREMENT

794

SYSTEM TEST REPORTS

812

FIRE RUNS

1,644

EMS RUNS

2,579

INSPECTIONS
REPRESENTING 100%
OF BLUE ASH
OCCUPANCIES

5,730.25

IN-HOUSE TRAINING
HOURS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



On July 19, James Early visited BAFD to thank the paramedics who saved his life on April 14, 2013. Mr. Early suffered cardiac arrest while he was at his daughter's mowing the grass. L-R: Lt. Bilkasley, Chris Ellis, Mr. Early, Lt. Dreyer, Brady Gregory.

BAFD offered 68 education classes with a total of 1,843 attendees throughout 2013. The department also offered CPR/AED classes on the second Saturday of each month, free for residents and \$25 for non-residents.

BAFD certified technicians installed 130 child car seats and 50 free dual-sensor smoke detectors for residents of Blue Ash.



Chief Brown and Assistant Chief Theders participated in the Blue Ash Elementary Haunted Festival to raise money for enrichment programs at the school. Two second graders won lunch with Chief Brown and Assistant Chief Theders.



BAFD was invited to Great American Ball Park on September 10 to present the American Flag during the National Anthem. Michael Nelson, Ben Degenhardt, Lt. Justin Burruss, Brent Johnson, Lt. Michael Bilkasley, and Andrea Hickman proudly represented the BAFD Honor Guard.



The annual Fire Department Open House was held on October 10 during Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme was "Prevent Kitchen Fires." The Honor Guard presented the colors, Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Nelson conducted a rappelling rescue demonstration, participants navigated through a junior firefighter safety course, and the evening concluded with a live burn exhibit. Blue Ash Gold Star Chili also sponsored food for the event.

PUBLIC WORKS

2013 BY THE NUMBERS

SERVICE

13.25

MILES OF STREET AND BIKE PATH STRIPED

38

REPAIRED/REPLACED/INSTALLED CATCH BASINS

51

TONS OF ASPHALT USED FOR ROAD REPAIRS

160

LANE MILES OF ROADWAY MAINTAINED

180

FEET OF GUARDRAIL REPLACED

266

LINEAL FEET OF CONCRETE SIDEWALK REPAIRED

300

LINEAL FEET OF STORM PIPE INSTALLED/REPAIRED/MAINTAINED

2,015

HOURS SPENT COLLECTING BRUSH

2,509

MILES OF PAVEMENT STREET SWEEP CLEAN

2,845

CATCH BASINS CLEANED AND INSPECTED



1,069

HOURS SPENT TREATING WINTER ROADWAYS

10,911

MILES DRIVEN WHILE REMOVING SNOW AND ICE

7,514

GALLONS OF 'BEET HEAT' USED

2,235

TONS OF SALT APPLIED

LEAF & BRUSH COLLECTION

45

LOADS OF WOOD CHIPS DELIVERED TO RESIDENTS

3,938

CUBIC YARDS OF LEAVES COLLECTED

3,576.5

CUBIC YARDS OF BRUSH COLLECTED

270

CUBIC YARDS OF WOOD CHIPS DELIVERED TO RESIDENTS

1,394

HOURS SPENT COLLECTING

586.5

CUBIC YARDS OF CHIPS COLLECTED

3,790

SQUARE FEET OF STREET STENCILS INSTALLED

158

TRAFFIC SIGNS INSTALLED OR REPAIRED

96

SIGNS DESIGNED & INSTALLED FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS



2,409.25

GALLONS OF LATEX PAINT DONATED TO MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES

\$12,249.38

SPENT BY THE CITY TO DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE



3,901

TONS OF RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTED AND DISPOSED BY RUMPKÉ

1,215

TONS OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS COLLECTED BY RUMPKÉ

24%

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLED BY RESIDENTS

\$518,309

SPENT BY THE CITY ON WASTE COLLECTION

\$147,264

SPENT BY THE CITY ON RECYCLING PROGRAM

\$35,934

RECEIVED FROM HAMILTON COUNTY'S RECYCLING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

60

Freon-containing appliances, such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners were disposed by the City at a disposal cost of \$900

318

tires were dropped off by residents and collected free of charge by Rumpke



PUBLIC WORKS

PAVING PROGRAM

The City paved Deerfield Road (Creek Road to N. Corp Limit), Corporate Drive, Ashfield Drive, Techwoods Circle, CEI Drive, and Old Plainfield Road. Luschek Drive and the intersection of Hunt Road and Bluewing Terrace were microsurfaced to provide for better skid resistance and to preserve the condition of the pavement. In total, 3,100 lineal feet of concrete curb was replaced as part of this program.

CULVERT REHAB PROJECT

A total of three culvert pipes, ranging in size from 78 inches in diameter to 96 inches in diameter, were repaired. These pipes had new concrete inverts installed in the bottom of the pipe, as well as void filling around the outside of the pipes. The culverts repaired are located under Glendale-Milford Road near Reed Hartman Highway, Reed Hartman Highway 950 feet south of Cornell Road, and Kenwood Road 400 feet south of Cornell Road.

CARVER ROAD REHAB



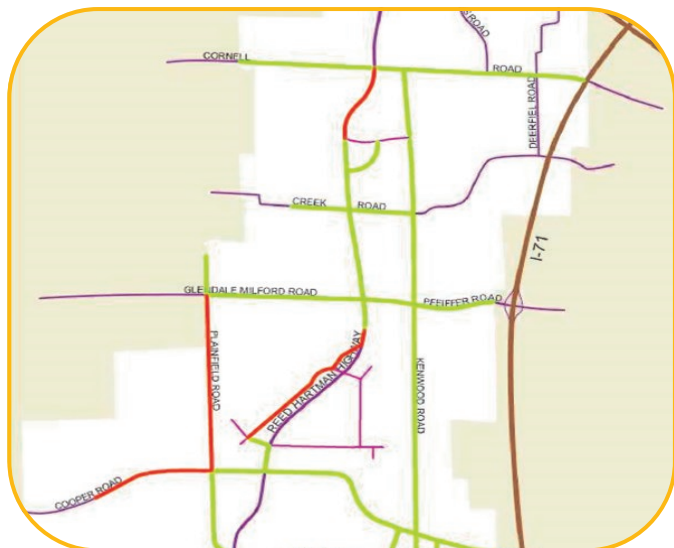
Construction began in 2013 on the Carver Road Project. To date, Carver Road has been removed completely, the subgrade has been chemically stabilized, and a new base course and an intermediate course of asphalt have been applied. New curb has been installed along the westbound lane. Work continues into 2014 with the installation of an 8-foot-wide sidewalk along the west side of Carver Road and Reed Harman Highway, as well as construction of two pedestrian bridges, and new concrete driveway aprons. Work is scheduled to be completed in May 2014.

FUEL TANK REPLACEMENT

The MVM Company was awarded the contract to remove and replace all City-owned underground fuel tanks with aboveground tanks. Currently, the Sports Center's underground fuel tanks have been removed and the area has been restored. The Golf Maintenance Facility's underground tanks were removed and replaced with aboveground tanks, and a fuel management system was installed in 2013. This facility will receive a new chemical mix contamination system as part of this project in 2014. The project continues into 2014 with the removal and replacement of the underground fuel tanks at the Municipal Building as well as the replacement of the fueling station canopy.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

In 2013, the City continued its ongoing program to improve connectivity between neighborhoods and businesses with important City resources (City Hall, Recreation Center, downtown, parks, etc.). In 2013, new sidewalks (highlighted in red) were installed on Cooper Road (Plainfield to Waxwing), Plainfield Road (Cooper to Glendale-Milford), and Reed Hartman Highway (Osborne to Cornell). A total of 2.17 miles of sidewalk was installed. Existing sidewalks are highlighted in green.



PUBLIC WORKS

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

2,542

maintenance requests Citywide were completed.

Team members assisted Golf Maintenance crews with installing new conduit for the Golf Course's irrigation system, along with a new roof on half of the Golf Maintenance building.

Crews replaced a section of the North Fire Station west apron and made improvements to the HVAC system at the Fire Headquarters.

3,306

bags of recycled material from City offices were collected through the Recycling Program.



Facility Maintenance staff painted shutters, replaced wood trim around the summer kitchen area, and improved the basement restroom conditions at the Hunt House.

The City received a grant of \$500,000 from the Department of Energy & Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance to install energy improvements. The City expects to save more than \$100,000 per year with these improvements.

Improvements included the installation of new efficient HVAC systems, water use-reducing plumbing fixtures, and low-energy lighting systems.



Facility Maintenance is also responsible for monthly facility checks, annual opening and closing of all parks, restrooms, concessions, pools, and fountains. They assist with the Tuesday and Friday night concerts in the summer, and remove leaves in the fall and snow and ice from sidewalks in the winter.

Facility Maintenance assisted the Police Department in the relocation of operations in the Police Department East Wing. Facilities staff made several improvements in the basement, as well as the booking area.



Staff repaired pool deck areas and aging pipelines, as well as spot welded and spot painted areas of the pool. Old "Funbrellas" were replaced to increase the availability of shade.

There are
1,293

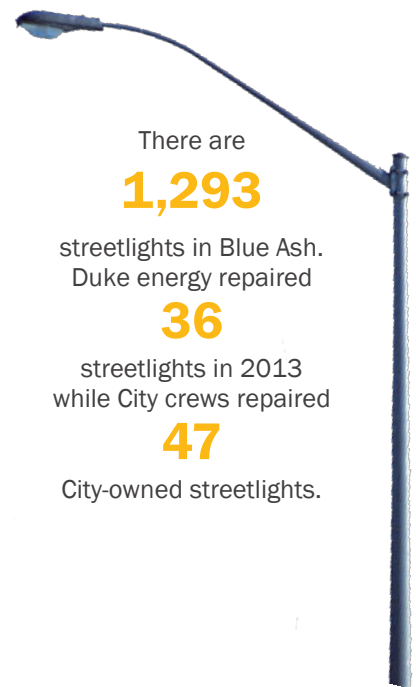
streetlights in Blue Ash. Duke energy repaired

36

streetlights in 2013 while City crews repaired

47

City-owned streetlights.



PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS MAINTENANCE

Crews worked with various community organizations throughout the year in preserving the City's parks. In September, Parks Maintenance team members joined forces with a local Boy Scout troop to remove honeysuckle from the Nature Park.

An Eagle Scout also worked with staff member Andy Dumford in creating four Purple Martin houses for Summit Park.



A Boy Scout removes honeysuckle from the Nature Park.

Forty-three ash trees were removed from the median on Glendale-Milford Road due to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). A new landscape plan is being developed for that area, which will include new trees and perennial beds.

Due to the number of trees that have been removed throughout the City because of EAB in the past few years, Parks Maintenance crews planted more than 100 trees this year around Blue Ash.

Parks Maintenance crews finished the installation of the second synthetic turf soccer field at the Sports Center, which is used daily.



City crews worked with Toyota for National Public Lands Day to re-mulch paths at Summit Park. Nearly 100 volunteers from local Scout troops, schools, and corporations worked for five hours on a Saturday. Together, they spread 400 yards of wood chips among the trails.

PARKS & RECREATION

2013 BY THE NUMBERS

REC CENTER

28.7

PERCENT PROFIT MARGIN FOR
ALL CONCESSION OPERATIONS

65

KIDS PER DAY ATTENDED
HAZELWOOD CENTER

1,859

PATRONS PARTICIPATED IN
LEAGUES

4,659

MEMBERSHIPS SOLD

4,749

TOT ROOM VISITORS

5,454

PATRONS VISITED THE
CLIMBING WALL

8,790

DOLLARS IN CLIMBING WALL
REVENUE

32,000

DOLLARS IN POOL
CONCESSION REVENUE

52,000

DOLLARS IN BLUE ASH CAFÉ
REVENUE

301,530

MEMBERSHIP SCANS

2

MAJOR
SPECIAL
EVENTS

40,000—60,000

... people attended the OneMain Financial Red, White, and Blue Ash. The event was held July 4 from 4 to 10:35 PM at Summit Park and was extremely rainy. Media partners included Fox19, Cumulus Radio, and Cincy Magazine. The presenting sponsors were Warm98, Kroger, and Toyota. Michael Schuster & Associates was the transportation sponsor. Partners included Coca-Cola, Rozzi's, Cincinnati Concessions & Catering, DoubleTree Suites, Academy Rentals, and Miller-Coors. Supporting sponsors included Duke Realty and Hills Communities. Entertainment included Midnight Special and the band Foreigner, although Midnight Special was unable to play due to the weather.

120,000

... people attended the 28th annual Taste of Blue Ash, held August 23, 24, and 25 at Towne Square. The weather was warm and pleasant. National entertainment included the Pointer Sisters, Blue Sky Riders, Kenny Loggins, and Rodney Atkins. Regional entertainment included Soul Pocket and Angela Reign. The Kroger Stage featured Firelight, Ohio Lottery Mini Games, Noah Smith and Jamison Road. The Family Fun area offered festival rides, balloon sculptors, and free games. 20 restaurants participated.

BEST OF TASTE WINNERS

Best Appetizer The Bistro
@DoubleTree, Crab Cake
Best Entrée Alfio's Buon
Cibo, Veal Short Rib Ravioli
Best Dessert Graeter's Ice
Cream, Berry Blast Angel
Food Cake



HONORABLE MENTION

Appetizer Qdoba, Grilled
Chicken Nachos
Entrée Vonderhaar's
Catering, Grilled Seasoned
Beef
Dessert Firehouse Grill, Key
Lime Pie

PARKS & RECREATION

FITNESS CENTER



The fitness center employs 10 fitness trainers. Rod Stidham was promoted from a Level 1 to a Level 2 trainer, Kaitlin Haring was promoted from a Level 2 to a Level 3 trainer, Dustin Barton was brought on in the fall as an intern and then transitioned to a Fitness Consultant in December 2013. Sam Brune was moved from a Fitness Aid to a Personal Trainer during the year as well.

Jen Wolf was promoted to Assistant Facility Supervisor, while Susan Trammel was promoted to be a full-time Recreation Leader. Debi Sylvester was promoted to the Office/Customer Service Manager to take Susan's place. BARC also welcomed Erica Gorman to be the Aquatic Supervisor and to oversee Adult Leagues.

EVENTS & PROGRAMS



WINTER

"Skate the Summit" was continued from Winter 2012 through February. The Recreation Department rented a portable artificial ice rink to test out its quality and durability. The rink offered free skating for 16 days, and 655 participants took advantage of this opportunity. Other entertainment amenities—such as a bounce house and putt-putt—were offered.

SPRING

Earth Day was held April 19. Twenty vendors and 300 people participated. The 2nd annual Field Day was held in May. The weather forced some activities indoors. The Blue Ash Business Bash was held May 16. Sixteen business vendors, 11 restaurants, and music by Jim Kelly Firefly entertained 100+ attendees in the Blue Gym.

SUMMER

Tuesday and Friday Night Concerts began in June. Twenty-three concerts throughout the summer entertained 47,000 attendees. Mio's Pizza was the title sponsor this year. The Beautification Awards had 21 nominated houses and five finalists in June. Other events included the Café Series and the Hunt House Historical Society open house.

FALL

The first ever Beats, Arts, and Eats was held at Towne Square on October 12. It drew five local artists, three food trucks, musicians, and approximately 700 visitors. The Halloween Walk in the Woods had more than 1,400 participants with 17 doors sponsored by local businesses. The Rec Department also received a grant for \$2,050 from ArtsWave to bring two Playhouse in the Park Off the Hill Productions, Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati, Play in a Day workshop, and a Madcap Productions Puppet Theatre Touring show to the Rec Center.

PARKS & RECREATION

GOLF COURSE

19

MAJOR OUTINGS

20

PERCENT INCREASE IN REVENUE

40

GOLF OUTINGS

3,160

GOLF OUTING ROUNDS

41,471

ROUNDS OF GOLF



COURSE PROJECTS

- Bunker renovations— drainage improved and new sand was placed in several bunkers
- Three hundred Ash Trees removed
- Initiated a three-year plan for the islands in the Carpenter's Run subdivision
 - First phase began with the renovation of the main traffic islands and installation of 30 new five-foot caliber trees along with the removal of dead or dying ash trees
- Replaced the underground fuel tanks and installed an Environmental Recovery System

NEW MAJOR OUTINGS

Cincinnati CPCU Society
SHP Leading Design
Matt James Memorial
Association of Builders & Contractors
Home Builders Association
Phelan/Lucke
PK Memorial
Hamilton County GOP
St. Jude's Charity
Moeller Alumni Reunion

The Greater Cincinnati Senior Metropolitan Championship Tournament and the Sycamore High School Invitational Tournament were both held at the Golf Course during the year.



GOLF MAINTENANCE

Springtime at the Blue Ash Golf Course was extremely cool and wet. This led to slower business and course maintenance was delayed until April. Turf conditions were in excellent shape during most of the season, other than a few stretches of hot and humid weather. Due to an early snowfall and colder temperatures in November and December, minimal maintenance work was done on the course in the later months of the year.

PARKS & RECREATION

COOPER CREEK

Many events were held at Cooper Creek throughout 2013. In its second year of business, the facility partnered with Cincinnati Magazine and hosted many events, such as Top Docs, Sweet Victory, Summer Grilling Event, Breakfast for Dinner, and Best of the City. Cooper Creek also partnered with the Business Courier and hosted Biz Women's Breakfast.

282

events were held at
Cooper Creek in
2013

194

corporate

26

social

49

wedding receptions

13

marketing events

2013 PICK
the knot
best of
weddings

The venue was one of three finalists for "Best Place to Have a Wedding" by Cincy Magazine. It was also voted by local brides as a "Best of Weddings" Pick on The Knot.com.

There was a 36% increase in the number of events hosted at the facility in 2013, along with a 74% increase in corporate business.



Photo by Jose Mesa Photography

VISION STATEMENT

We will continuously improve the quality of community life for all residential and business citizens to ensure Blue Ash is always the “City of Choice” through an enlightened, efficient, and dynamic unified municipal government.



This 2013 Annual Report was produced by Emily Schaffer, Community and Public Relations Coordinator, in early 2014. Cover pictures were taken by Ryan Sakemiller (top right), Terrence Huge (top left and bottom right), and Mitchell Cooke (bottom left).



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide superior services, facilities, and activities for all citizens, utilizing key guiding principles of integrity, compassion, innovation, professionalism, and commitment.



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